

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An airbag device for protecting an occupant of a vehicle, comprising:

an airbag having a front portion facing the occupant and a rear portion opposite to the front portion when the airbag is inflated,

an inflator attached to the rear portion of the airbag for inflating the airbag,

a retainer attached to the airbag and the inflator and having an insertion port for inserting one end of the inflator, said airbag being folded and mounted on one side of the retainer, and

a shape-maintaining component having a first connecting portion connected to the front portion of the airbag and a second connecting portion attached to a lower part of the retainer for covering the airbag in a folded state so that the one end of the inflator is placed in the insertion port behind the first connecting portion, said shape-maintaining component covering an upper portion of the folded airbag located on said one side of the retainer and extending from said upper portion to the other side of the retainer to attach and hold the folded airbag to the retainer.

2. (original) An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein said first connecting portion of the shape-maintaining component is located above the insertion port.

3. (currently amended) An airbag device according to claim 2, wherein said shape-maintaining component at the front portion of the airbag around the connecting portion extends from the front

side portion toward a periphery of the insertion port at the other side of the retainer.

4. (currently amended) An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein said shape-maintaining component includes a tearing portion around the first connecting portion, said tearing portion being ~~tere~~ torn when the airbag is inflated.

5. (original) An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein said shape-maintaining component includes a main part having said first connecting portion, and said second connecting portion is formed of a plurality of flaps extending outwardly from the main part and connected to the lower part of the retainer.

6. (currently amended) An airbag device ~~according to claim 5,~~
further comprising for protecting an occupant of a vehicle,
comprising:

an airbag having a front portion facing the occupant and a rear portion opposite to the front portion when the airbag is inflated,

an inflator attached to the rear portion of the airbag for inflating the airbag,

a retainer attached to the airbag and the inflator and having an insertion port for inserting one end of the inflator,

a shape-maintaining component including a main part having a first connecting portion connected to the front portion of the airbag, and a second connecting portion attached to a lower part of the retainer for covering the airbag in a folded state so that the one end of the inflator is placed in the insertion port behind the first connecting portion, said second connecting portion being formed of a plurality of flaps extending outwardly from the main part and connected to the lower part of the retainer, and

a mounting ring disposed inside the airbag and having attaching members protruding from the mounting ring, said plurality of flaps being attached to the attaching members.

7. (currently amended) An airbag device ~~according to claim 5~~ for protecting an occupant of a vehicle, comprising:

an airbag having a front portion facing the occupant and a rear portion opposite to the front portion when the airbag is inflated,

an inflator attached to the rear portion of the airbag for inflating the airbag,

a retainer attached to the airbag and the inflator and having an insertion port for inserting one end of the inflator, and

a shape-maintaining component including a main part having a first connecting portion connected to the front portion of the airbag, and a second connecting portion attached to a lower part of the retainer for covering the airbag in a folded state so that the one end of the inflator is placed in the insertion port behind the first connecting portion, said second connecting portion being formed of a plurality of flaps extending outwardly from the main part and connected to the lower part of the retainer,

wherein said shape-maintaining component further includes a plurality of slits at the main part, through which parts of the retainer pass.

8. (currently amended) An airbag device according to claim 6, wherein said shape-maintaining component includes a tearing portion around the first connecting portion, said tearing portion being ~~to be~~ torn when the airbag is inflated.

9. (new) An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein said main part substantially entirely covers the folded airbag on the

retainer, and the first connecting portion is fixed to the front portion of the airbag.

10. (new) An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein said main part spreads substantially flatly on the folded airbag on the retainer so that a center part of the front portion of the airbag is located adjacent the main part.